

Message Text

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17

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-11 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 NRC-05 /089 W

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1448

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0070

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES
OF FEB 24, 1976

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE FEB 24 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE CANADIAN REP, FRG REP AND US REP, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SHUSTOV, CZECHOSLOVAK REP LAHODA, AND POLISH REP DABROWA.

2. THE SESSION WAS UNEVENTFUL. WESTERN PARTICIPANTS STRESSED THE ADVANTAGES OF THE DEC 16 WESTERN PROPOSAL, SHOWING HOW IT WOULD RESULT IN ENHANCED SECURITY FOR BOTH SIDES. THEY ASKED EASTERN REPS TO SHOW HOW RECENT EASTERN PROPOSAL WOULD MEET WESTERN SECURITY INTERESTS. EASTERN PARTICIPANTS ARGUED CASE THAT OVERALL WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH REMAINED INEQUITABLE

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EVEN AFTER DEC 16 PROPOSAL. THEY ADDED FEW DETAILS TO WHAT

WAS ALREADY KNOWN ABOUT THE EASTERN PROPOSAL. CZECHOSLOVAK REP CONFIRMED THAT EACH OF THE TWO STAGES WOULD BE COVERED BY A SEPARATE AGREEMENT. KHLESTOV SAID THE EAST COULD ACCEPT EITHER 2 PERCENT AND 3 PERCENT OF TOTAL, BUT REFUSED TO GIVE DATA UNTIL AFTER AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE HAD BEEN REACHED ON THE EASTERN PROPOSAL.

3. FRG REP LED OFF WITH CASE FOR APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES, STRESSING THAT THIS WAS THE ONLY BASIS FOR AGREEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST AND DESCRIBED HOW WESTERN PROPOSAL WAS EQUITABLE. POLISH REP DEVELOPED THE ARGUMENT THAT THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH, EVEN AFTER ADDITION OF DEC 16 PROPOSAL, WOULD STILL RESULT IN UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE FOR THE WEST. CANADIAN REP ASKED EASTERN REPS TO SUBSTANTIATE THEIR ASSERTION THAT THEIR NEW PROPOSAL MET WESTERN INTERESTS IN MAJOR RESPECTS. CZECHOSLOVAK REP MADE CASE FOR ADVANTAGES OF NEW EASTERN PROPOSAL. FRG REP POINTED OUT THAT THE EAST'S NEW PROPOSAL WAS AGAIN ASKING THAT NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS COMMIT THEMSELVES IN THE FIRST STAGE AS TO THE AMOUNT AND TIMING OF THEIR REDUCTIONS AND IN ADDITION, TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO REDUCE ARMAMENTS, TAKE MANPOWER REDUCTIONS BY UNITS; AND ACCEPT NATIONAL CEILINGS.

4. KHLESTOV MADE A LENGTHY DEFENSE OF NEW EASTERN PROPOSAL IN WHICH HE CLAIMED IT MET MAJOR WESTERN INTERESTS ON TWO SPECIFIC POINTS: FIRST, THE SEQUENCE OF REDUCTIONS, IN THAT US AND SOVIETS WOULD NOW COMPLETE THEIR REDUCTIONS BEFORE REMAINING DIRECT PARTICIPANTS REDUCE THEIR FORCES, AND SECOND, IN THAT REDUCTION COMMITMENTS FOR DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OTHER THAN US AND USSR WOULD BE ON THE SAME LEVEL OF GENERALITY AS THE WESTERN PROPOSAL THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS REDUCE TO A COMMON CEILING.

5. US REP WOUND UP WITH ANALYSIS OF BENEFITS OF WESTERN PROPOSAL OF DEC 16. HE SAID EAST HAD YET TO MAKE CONVINCING CASE THAT THE NEW EASTERN PROPOSAL MET MAJOR WESTERN INTERESTS, AND AGAIN ASKED FOR DATA EXCHANGE WITHOUT THE PRECONDITION OF PRIOR AGREEMENT ON A REDUCTION APPROACH.

6. KHLESTOV PROPOSED THAT THE NEXT SESSION BE ON FORCE DEFINITION ISSUE. WESTERN REPS PROPOSED CONTINUATION OF
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GENERAL DISCUSSION. EASTERN REPS THEN URGED ADOPTION OF FIXED PROGRAM OF SESSION DEALING WITH GENERAL TOPICS AND DEFINITIONS. WESTERN REPS REFUSED TO ACCEPT THIS PROPOSAL, BUT ACCEPTED THAT THE SUBJECT OF THE NEXT DISCUSSION SHOULD BE DEFINITIONS ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS WAS A SPECIFIC DECISION FOR THIS SESSION ONLY. END SUMMARY.

REMAINDER OF REPORT SENT SEPTEL ON THIS OCCASION TO ASSIST IN

EVALUATION OF RECENT EASTERN PROPOSAL.RESOR

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